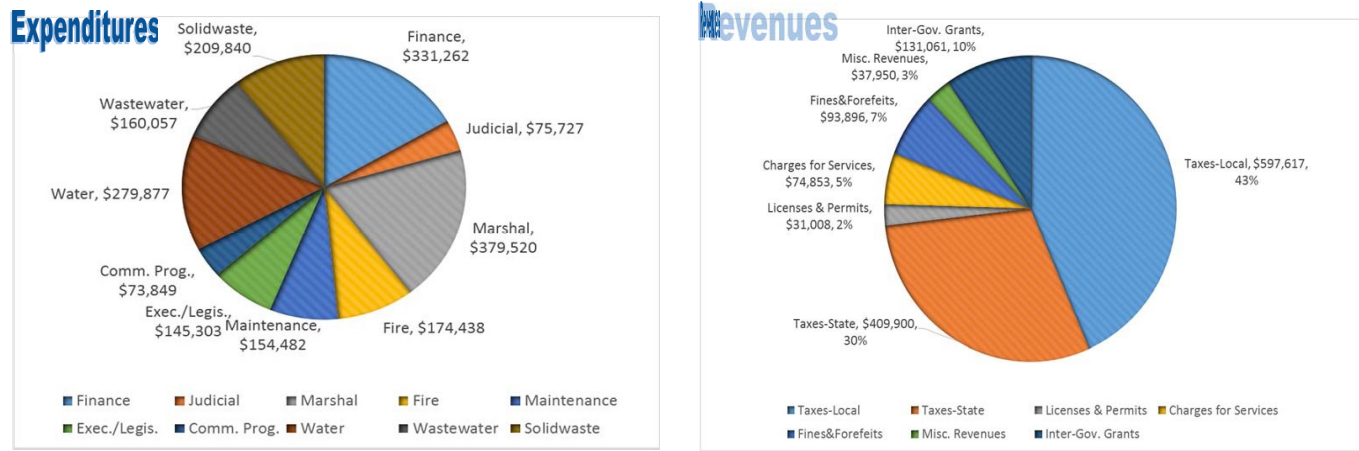


A LOOK BACK AT FY 2014-2015

The Town’s General Fund is comprised of various departments: finance, judicial, marshal, fire, maintenance, executive/ legislative, community programs, community center/plaza, and community development. Each department is responsible for their own department’s budget. The Enterprise Fund is comprised of the Town’s Water Services, Wastewater services and Solid Waste services. Below are pie charts depicting the Town’s revenues and expenditures



In fiscal year 2014-2015, the General Fund revenues totaled \$1,376,284. We had a total of \$1,355,516 expenditures with a remainder of \$20,768 for last fiscal year. Due to the increase of water rates each year by the consumer price index enacted in 2013, the Town was able to break even last fiscal year in the Enterprise fund and continue to build enough revenue to begin a meter replacement program which will benefit many residents and the Town.

Mesilla Town Hall & J. Paul Taylor Visitor Center
2231 Avenida de Mesilla
PO Box 10
Mesilla, NM 88046

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Town of Mesilla

2015 WINTER EDITION



Board of Trustees *Nora L. Barraza, Mayor*
Linda Flores, Mayor Pro-tem **Sam Bernal** *Trustee*
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee **Carlos Arzabal**, *Trustee*

Planning, Zoning & Historical Appropriateness Commission
Dax Contreras, Russell Hernandez, Yolanda Lucero
Roman Prieto, Kim Seifert

Dear Mesilla Residents:

As we begin the holiday season and the end of another year, the Town of Mesilla has so much for which to be thankful. This has been a good year for the Town of Mesilla and the progress we have made. It has been a pleasure and an honor serving as your mayor. Reflecting on 2015 and assessing the towns’ accomplishments, I can only be grateful , appreciative and proud of Town of Mesilla’s staff, trustees, commissioners, residents, business community and vendors. This year the Public Safety Building has been completely renovated. Our legislators allocated capital outlay money in 2013 and 2014 for the planning, design and construction. An open house will be planned sometime in December and everyone is invited.

Information will be posted once we finalize the date and time. The Town of Mesilla has also received 2015 capital outlay money for planning and design to install a sewer line on McDowell Road and a study is being conducted for University Avenue. We are hoping to apply and receive funding to make improvements, add sidewalks and bike lanes and to address the increase of traffic on University Avenue. The Town of Mesilla has purchased some playground equipment for Parque Conmemorativo and Los Leones Park, but we are still short on funding for playground equipment at the Community Center.

The units we have purchased do not include the swings. The playground equipment at all of our parks are out of compliance, but very expensive to replace. We are hoping the community will come together and help the town through monetary donations or volunteer work preparing the areas for the playground equipment. This list does not end, the town still needs to secure funding to address infrastructure needs. The water and sewer lines in town are old and need to be replaced and in some areas around town, water and sewer lines need to be put in. Streets need to be repaved or completely redone. We are
(Continue on next page.)

Mayor’s opening continued

continually searching for funding sources and opportunities to bring to the Board of Trustees for approval Provided is information showing our revenues and expenditures and an Excel worksheet indicating the additional source and funding the Town of Mesilla has received from 2010 to present. We have been able to obtain this additional funding through grant writing, filling out applications for additional state and federal funding and lobbying our legislators. With the support of the Board of Trustees, the department heads and myself have been able to lobby our legislators and obtain additional funding to address some of the financial needs of the Finance/ Administration, Public Works, Fire and Marshal's department. As the new year approaches, new goals are set to address the concerns and needs of our community. I continue to work honestly and tirelessly along with the Board of Trustees, business owners, constituents and staff to bring issues for discussion and to develop plans that address these needs and concerns. I ask for your patience and support as we continue to work together to make our town a great place to live, to work and to raise our families. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

Feliz Navidad, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays to all of you and your families.

Sincerely,
Nora L. Barraza



Community Events

Irene E. Parra

I have had the great pleasure these past two years to work for and to promote the Town of Mesilla. It has been a duty that I have taken very seriously and have done with great passion and pride, as I am not only an employee of this community, but also a resident. I am very proud of the gains I have made in promoting the town on YouTube, Pandora Radio, Southwest Airlines Magazine, The Culture Trip, an international online publication, New Mexico True Television, New Mexico Magazine and approximately 20 other publications & visitor centers

Additional Contributions 2013-2015:
Coordinated 1st annual *Small Business Saturday in Old Mesilla*, (2013/2014), promoting local businesses
Coordinated 1st annual Halloween Carnival, promoting *The Town of Mesilla*
Coordinated 1st annual Summer Music Series, promoting *The Town of Mesilla*
Assisted in coordination of 1st annual Organ Mountain’s Desert Peak Celebration, promoting designation of Organ Mountains as National Monument and the *Town of Mesilla* as a sponsor
Coordinated Military/Civilian Luncheons, building relationships with White Sands Missile Range & Ft. Bliss
Established Mercado Vendor Captain – Ensuring consistent oversight and compliance with rules & regulations
Established Mercado Vendor Quality Control Committee – Ensuring quality homemade/handcrafted products
Coordinated *New Mexico True TV* Segment on Town of Mesilla (2014)- showcasing the *Town of Mesilla* throughout the state(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T58BduCeslA>)
Coordinated OFFICIAL BEST OF SERIES featuring the Town of Mesilla as “New Mexico’s Best Vacation Getaway” (2014/2015) – featured on Discovery Channel, Official Best Of website & YouTube (<http://officialbestof.com/features/newmexico/2015.php>)
Coordinated creation of new website, creating a more user friendly informational tool
Increased online social media traffic on Facebook Page from 300 to 3000 + followers
Established Instagram Page, increasing online social media exposure
Secured purchase of *NMSU Placed Based short films*, featuring the *Town of Mesilla*, as a promotional tool
Increased Clean & Beautiful Funding from \$800.00 to \$9,800.00 purchasing: New Town Signs, New tree grades & planters for plaza
Secured New Mexico COOP Grant funding of \$3000.00 to produce 1st television Commercial – airing on CBS College Sports, CNBC, Discovery Channel, ESPN 2, ABC Family, Hallmark, NBC Sports, NFLN, Syfy and VH-1 (One year contract)

Community Development

Larry Shannon

Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays... It is the festive time of year again, and people are looking forward to those times when family and good friends get together to share good times. For most, the season brings good times and memories, and; for the shopkeepers of Town, people shopping for gifts and other special items for the season.

This is also the time of year that gets stressful because there is so much to be done, especially when it comes to preparing for visitors. So...before you schedule that holiday party or family gathering, you can relieve some of that stress by setting aside some time to do some early prep-work. First, take a broad look at your property:
Are any of your walkways or approaches unsightly or need some fill-in work or repair?
Are the tree branches overgrown, fallen, or blocking pathways, roads, or sidewalks?
Are there still items outside from your Summer barbeque or spring cleaning?
Are last year’s holiday lights, luminarias, ad ornaments in safe working condition and ready to install?
Is it safe for someone to walk around your house or shop? (Do you have advertising or displays that may trip or block them, or otherwise get in their way?)

across the southwest. I continue to work to not only increase tourism for the town, but also to encourage local residents and those in the surround communities to come to Mesilla for their everyday shopping and dining experience through consistent promotional print and radio advertising. In addition to coordinating events and overseeing marketing I also serve as the liaison to the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greater Chamber of Commerce, Hispano Chamber of Commerce, New Mexico Tourism of Department, Las Cruces Film Department and the Border Extension Committee.

Community Development conti.

Here are some ideas you can use to make your property look more welcoming to your guests, customers, and neighbors:
Level uneven walking surfaces and remove any items that might become obstacles in walking areas. Fill-in bare spots in the front yard with rock, gravel, or drought-tolerant or desert plants. You’ll enhance the curb appeal of your property and won’t have to concern yourself with next year’s Summer water bills! Trim or remove any vegetation that blocks natural light or impedes passage on the sidewalk or street. Also, remove any dead vegetation that may be blown from the yard into ditches or neighboring properties. Haul off unwanted household items that may be in the yard or driveway
Spruce up and renew that holiday display for the whole Town to enjoy. (Just don’t neglect to take it down and put it away safely after the New Year!)
You might find that a little up-front work will make the holiday season less stressful. And it’s easy to spread good cheer by offering to help a neighbor do the same. Doing something as simple as bringing in the trash cart for an elderly or sick neighbor can be a rewarding expression of good will. Reaching out to those close to you can be a benefit the whole Town!



Public Works Department

Debbie Lujan

*****METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**
Pure Operations and Mesilla Public Works Crew installed 200 new Automated Meter Reading (AMR). Training for the new software took place in mid-October. The digital smart water meter will improve low flow accuracy, detect leaks, high flow, detailed account analysis as low as 1 minute and resolution better than 1/10 gallon on residential meters. We will be able to view and graph customers daily usage. The Public Works crew will simply drive by the residence and collect the data on the computer.
*****WATER CONSERVATION*****
Mesilla Town Code Chapter 13.25 Water Conservation 13.25.222 Outdoor vegetation watering restrictionsA. All outdoor vegetation on residential and commercial properties located on the even-numbered side of the street shall be watered only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and on the odd-numbered side of the street shall be watered only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. For corner buildings or properties having both odd and even numbers, the number shown on the town’s or the franchised water companies’ utility records shall control. B. From May 1s to September 30th, all outdoor watering of vegetation is prohibited between the hours of 10:00a.m. and 6:00 p.m. [Ord. 2004-05 sec. 1]

Additional information about Community Development

In addition to planning, the department serves the function of issuing building permits, sign permits and business registrations; as well as being responsible for Codes Enforcement. The department regulates all subdivision activities in the Town of Mesilla, as well as processes any variance requests or special use permit applications.
Since Mesilla is a historical community, sometimes permits are required for work that doesn’t ordinarily require a permit. Any work that affects how the exterior appears, including painting, patching or trim paint requires a permit. Of course in addition to what is seen from the outside of a building, permits are required by International Building Code for remodeling, additions, etc. Many permits for smaller projects do not cost anything, just simply filling out a form. If you are not certain if a permit is required or not for your upcoming project, or would like further information about the requirements, please call Larry at the Mesilla Town Hall at 575-524-3262 extension 104 just to on the safe side.

NOTICE:

The Utility Department is currently update all residential contact and mailing information. Please contact Jody Pino, Utility Clerk, at [575-524-3262 ext. 100](tel:575-524-3262) to update your information. All contact and mailing information will be kept confidential.

Winter months are here so please use the following safety tips. Gas Leak: How to Recognize a Suspected Leak Using your sense of sight, sound and smell will help you recognize a suspected leak. Here’s what you should look for:

Sight - Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and “ground frosting” may be visible at high pressures. A gas leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooded areas, district patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak is ignited.

Sound - A hissing or roaring noise along the right-of-way of a pipeline could also indicate a natural gas leak.

Smell - Natural gas is odorless. Before it is delivered to your home, mercaptan is added which gives the gas a Sulphur or “rotten egg” smell to help detect leaks. If the gas is from an underground leak, the odorant may be filtered out by the ground.

New Mexico Gas Company 24-Hour Emergency Number 1-888- NM-GAS-CO (1-888-664-2726)

Zia Natural Gas Company 575-526-4427 or 800-453-5546

Public Works Daily Routine Public Works crew continuous job duties include routine cleaning and maintenance of the Town Hall, Community Center, Public Safety Building, Plaza, picking-up trash at the parks. As always the crew is reading meters monthly and monitoring the wells when they are on-call. Fulfilling work orders from residents, tenants, staff, fire and police department, repairing water leaks and replacing broken meter boxes, repairing broken bricks around plaza or sidewalks, repairing potholes, replacing stop signs due to graffiti and signs being run down, preparing and setting up plus taking down for all Town events plus special rentals, watering, cutting and trimming grass at all the parks Attending Safety, and attending Water & Wastewater Training Classes.

Public Works Staff; Debbie Lujan, Director Sean Lucero, Foreman Danny Dominguez Jose Gonzales Gary Garrison Orlando Orona Brian Romero Emergency On-call phone number 575-650-8830

Public Works Department conti.

Ensure Your Safety Call NM 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Before you start any excavation activity on your property, you are required by state law to call 811 or 1-800-321-2537 at least 2 business days before digging. New Mexico Gas Company will mark the location of their lines at no cost to you. Excavation activities can be as simple as planting a tree, installing landscaping, building a fence or installing a swimming pool.

What you should NOT do if a leak occurs: DO NOT touch, breathe or make contact with the leak. DO NOT light a match, turn light switches on or off, use a cell or home phone, or do anything to create a spark. DO NOT attempt to extinguish any fire. DO NOT attempt to operate any valves.

What you should DO if a leak occurs: DO leave the home, building and area of the suspected leak, and get to a safe area. DO call 911 and New Mexico Gas Company from a safe distance. DO warn others to stay out of the area.



MESILLA FIRE DEPARTMENT “First In, Last Out”



HOTSPOTS Chief Kevin Hoban

October 2015

Your fire department has kept busy over the past year with several important projects. A breakdown of these projects includes:

- Installation of diesel exhaust capture systems on all fire apparatus to effectively reduce the carcinogens and toxins personnel are exposed to from diesel exhaust emissions. The project was paid for by a grant from the NM Fire Protection Fund. By installing this equipment this also removed the need to install an air filtering system during the remodeling of the Public Safety Building saving over \$100,000 in the project that was able to be used elsewhere in the station.
- An ISO survey was conducted which determines not only the amount of funding we receive from the State Fire Fund but also determines fire insurance rates for residents and businesses in Mesilla. We hope to have the results of that survey in November. We are currently an ISO 5.
- Work is coming to completion on the Public Safety Building rehabilitation and remodel. This department’s members are very excited to see the many years of struggling to get to this point come to fruition.
- The department continues to train new firefighters as turnover is a never ending problem for volunteer fire departments. I am proud to say however we have some of the best trained firefighters in the area with over 60% of them trained to Firefighter II. Of course this means our members are recruited to career departments. With this being said we have 5 members in the running now for the Las Cruces Fire Department’s next academy. The department is now gearing up to sponsor a Fire Explorer Program through the Boy Scouts of America. We have 10 Explorer Cadets signed up. We will be briefing the Board of Trustees on the program in November.

Fire Department conti.

| | | | |
|------|---|--------------|---|
| 2011 | HIDTA (equipment) | \$2,000.00 | 5 desktop computers |
| 2012 | NM Fire Protection Grant | \$105,700.00 | 24 Personal Protective Ensembles, coats, helmets, gloves, boots, and repair existing gear |
| 2013 | NM Fire Protection Grant | \$117,105.00 | 16 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus |
| | Mesilla Firefighters Association | \$600.00 | 2 laptop computers |
| | Home Depot | \$720.00 | 24 smoke alarms |
| | Mesilla Firefighters Association (stipends) | \$316,000.00 | Stipends given up to purchase 2013 Spartan Engine and equipment |
| 2014 | FM Global | \$1,500.00 | 100 smoke alarms |
| | NM Fire Protection Grant | \$48,000.00 | Diesel Exhaust Capture Systems for Apparatus |
| | Mesilla Firefighters Association | \$1,500.00 | Purchased flat screen TV, gaming system and TV stand for Public Safety Building. |
| | NM State Police (vehicle) | \$2,900.00 | 2003 Chevrolet Impala |
| 2015 | HIDTA (equipment) | \$800.00 | 4 Dell Laptop computers |

Marshal’s Department

Marshal Chris Mangusing

There has been a new addition to the Marshal’s Department. Please join me in welcoming Deputy Diane Mejia. Deputy Mejia has been in law enforcement for over 13 years. She has experience in working on patrol, supervision and working with small communities like ours. She has worked in community policing and will be an outstanding addition to our Marshal’s Department and our town.

It is fall right now and will soon be winter. With the fall and winter will come the wet weather, meaning rain and snow. I’m reading this year will be a wet one! With rain and snow, the roads get slick. We all need to slow down during the weather conditions. Last year the department encountered several vehicle rollovers due to weather conditions, particularly on the Calle Del Norte River Bridge. So Please Slow Down! During the fall and winter, our kids have time off. We have holidays and probably Snow Days. When our kids are off they will be out and about. Let slow down for their sakes.

As you are all aware we are a small community with a small police department. The Marshal’s Department has 7 officers including the Marshal. That’s 7 of us for 24/7, 365 days a year. With a department that small I’m going to ask for your help. If you see a crime occurring, call us. If you see something suspicious, call us. If you see something that doesn’t look or feel right, call us. We need you to be our extra eyes and ears. We will be discreet about where the information came from but we need your help to let us know. If you see an emergency or a serious crime occurring call 911 but if you see something happening that is suspicious or doesn’t look or feel right call dispatch (Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority) at 575-526-0795, option 6. You will be speaking to a Radio Dispatcher. Tell them what you have seen and where and they will contact the Mesilla Marshal’s Deputy that is on duty. That’s all you have to do. We’ll do the rest.

I also wanted to talk to all our residents about something else. I was speaking to one of our residents the other day. We had something occur here in Mesilla. It happened to one of our older residents. I was told that when she was asked why she didn’t call the police her reply was “oh I would never call the police.” I was dumbfounded at first and shocked afterwards. I hope this is an isolated feeling among our residents. I want everyone in Mesilla to know that the Mesilla Marshal’s Department is here for you. Our goal is to make you feel safe. We want you to sleep well knowing that the Marshal’s Department is protecting you. If you need us we will be there. Rest assured that every member of this department feels the same way.

We are still encountering many dogs and cats roaming the town’s streets. Please do not allow your pets to wander the streets. I know you don’t want your neighbor’s animals wandering around your yard and defecating there so you have to clean it up and I’m sure your neighbor feels that same way about your pets.

The Marshal’s Department has had several complaints concerning speeding in the Bason Manor area or as many of the Mesilleros refer to it, Mesilla Park. The bulk of the complaints are about Capri Rd and McDowell Rd. In an effort to address these concerns the department will placing the town’s portable radar trailer in this area, particularly these two streets. We will also be increasing our patrols and performing targeted traffic enforcement of these areas. We are asking for your help with the speeding. Please slow down. Tell your friends and neighbors. For the safety of our kids...slow down!



Additional information about the Marshal’s Department

There is some great news to report. The Marshal’s Department and the Fire Department should be back at the newly renovated Public Safety Building by the new year. It is a beautiful building and will serve us well for many years to come. When we move back in, please come see the building. We would love to show it to you.

Please remember we are here for the residents of Mesilla and will continue to serve the community by providing not only public safety but peace of mind.

Remember for non-emergency call or you need to speak to a deputy call dispatch at 575-526-0795 option #6. For an emergency please call 911!